



NEWS RELEASE

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Release No.0235.98

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USDA GRANTS TO BOOST U.S. AGRICULTURAL SAFETY NET

GRAND FORKS, N.D., June 8, 1998--Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman today announced \$3 million in risk management education grants to help farmers and ranchers compete in local and global markets.

"This initiative is vitally important, because producers that do the best job of managing risk will be better prepared to compete in the post farm bill market environment," said Glickman.

A \$248,000 grant has been awarded to South Central Technical College in North Mankato, Minnesota to fund an integrated risk management education program for agricultural producers in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. The goal is to help Northern Plains farmers learn to balance production, price, market, legal, and personnel risks in their operations.

"All of these grants are exceptional public private partnerships," said Glickman. "We must nurture these partnerships, so that our investment in the future of American agriculture will bring a bountiful return."

Some of the 17 grants give special attention to the needs of limited-resource farmers. The grants support public and private educational partnerships in 3 categories:

- The delivery of risk management education programs to producers and related agribusiness operators;
- The development of agricultural risk management educational curricula and materials;
- Supporting research that leads to improved risk management strategies and decision aids, or improves access to risk management education for agricultural producers.

The grants are part of a coordinated USDA risk management education and insurance protection program authorized by the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996. The education program is guided by a steering committee made up of officials from USDA and from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. USDA Risk Management Agency Administrator Ken Ackerman chairs the steering committee. The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service administers the grants with funding from the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

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